



## **GREAT LAKES RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

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***GLREA's mission is to increase the mainstream use of  
renewable energy technologies and sustainable energy practices***

Comments in response to the Representatives of Michigan, House Energy and Technology Committee Meeting, scheduled for June 20, 2007, regarding a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for electric service providers.

On behalf of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA), I submit the following comments.

There have been few times in Michigan's history that are as pivotal as right now to increase renewable energy generation in Michigan.

Michigan is spending 20 billion dollars a year to import energy for our consumption, (Source: Michigan Public Service Commission). Michigan's unemployment rate hit 7.1% in December of 2006, according to the US Department of Labor and Statistics. Michigan is losing economic development possibilities by importing fossil fuels. The alternative fuels and renewable energy industry offers much potential in Michigan to create jobs and generate revenue from using Michigan renewable energy resources. I ask the representatives to let Michigan lead in this industry through a strong commitment to renewable energy generation.

The GLREA strongly supports Representative Frank Accavitti (D), Chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee's legislation, House Bill 4562, to establish a 10% RPS by 2015. A standard of reaching 10% by 2015 will do the following:

- Invest millions of dollars in Michigan's economy through construction of wind turbines, installation of solar panels and applications of biomass technology.
- Allow Michigan to protect itself from rising costs of coal and natural gas.
- Attract and grow current alternative fuel industry in Michigan-- most manufacturers of wind turbine parts like to site facilities near a stable market.
- Allow a gradual and stable growth of the renewable energy industry to take place in Michigan.

GLREA appreciates the commitment the representatives are willing to make to the renewable energy industry and I am available for any questions.

Thank you.

Jennifer Alvarado  
Executive Director